

STATINTL

4 MAR 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence

THRU : Legislative Counsel

FROM : John F. Blake
Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT : Request from House Armed Services Committee
to Store Records

1. In mid-February it came to my attention that the House Armed Services Committee had asked CIA to store certain records relating to the Committee's Watergate investigation. After discussing this request with my staff officers responsible for records matters, I concluded that there were significant potential problems in the rendering of this type of support and OLC was advised that I was looking into the matter further. The attached memorandum to you detailing my concerns was prepared and forwarded through OLC. Unfortunately, prior to the receipt of my memorandum, OLC as a matter of routine prepared a letter for your signature to Chairman Price accepting the records material for storage in our facilities. A copy of this memorandum is also attached.

2. I realize that we are now in a somewhat awkward position should we choose to make other arrangements for storage of the material, but I believe the concerns raised in my memorandum are sufficient enough to warrant raising this matter with the staff of the Committee. I have been advised that one of the reasons behind the Committee's request is a history of less than satisfactory relationships between the Committee and the National Archives and Records Service. Should this be true and should you share my concern relating to our storage of the material, we could offer to the Committee our good offices in assisting in the making of arrangements with NARS for secure storage of the records in question. I believe our relationships with NARS are such that this could be done with a minimum of difficulty.

3. I would appreciate your guidance on this matter.

/s/John E. Blake

John F. Blake

Attachments: a/s

STATINTL AI/DDA: :ydc (3 March 1977)

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